

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claim 18 is pending in the present application. Claims 1-17 have been canceled and Claim 18 has been added by the present amendment.

This application is a divisional application of allowed U.S. Application Serial No. 09/886,980, filed on June 25, 2001, and is directed to Claim 18 which was canceled in the parent application.

Further, the specification has been amended to include a reference to the parent application and to include the same change made in the parent application.

Consequently, an action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870
David A. Bilodeau
Registration No. 42,325

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220

EHK/DAB\la
I:\ATTY\DAB\240800US-PR.DOC